



Daycare and Early Childhood Community COVID-19 Update

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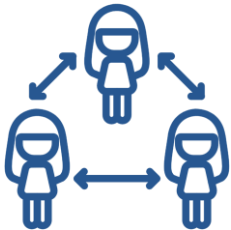
VDH Guidance to Safely Operate Childcare during COVID-19



Recommendations for training and education staff on policies and procedures.



Conduct temperature and symptom checks daily for staff and children.



Maintain distance between all children and staff in facility.



Wear a mask regardless of vaccination status, especially when distancing not possible.



Practice proper infection control and sanitation.



Wash hands frequently.

Masking Recommendation



- ❖ The use of cloth face coverings is **strongly recommended but not required** for indoor use in childcare settings.
- ❖ Although not required, masks are recommended in childcare settings regardless of vaccination status, especially when physical distance cannot be maintained.
- ❖ Universal masking policy (indoors only) is recommended when a large percentage of staff or patrons (e.g., children) are unvaccinated (or vaccination status unknown).
- ❖ In childcares that are located in **K-12 schools**, masks **are required** ([Virginia Public Health Order](#)) for everyone aged 5 and older indoors).

Illness Detection

Deny entrance to any individual who is ill, has recently tested positive for COVID-19, or has had close contact with someone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.



Signs and symptoms
of COVID-19



Positive test in past
10 days



Not fully vaccinated AND
contact with
suspected/confirmed
COVID case in past
14 days

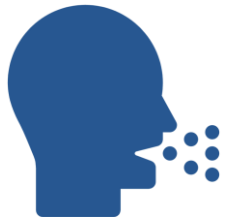
Report cases by calling the health department at 703-267-3511 or filling out [this](#) survey.

When do I contact the local health department (LHD)?



If individuals with known/suspected COVID-19 identified among children, staff, or their household contacts.

OR



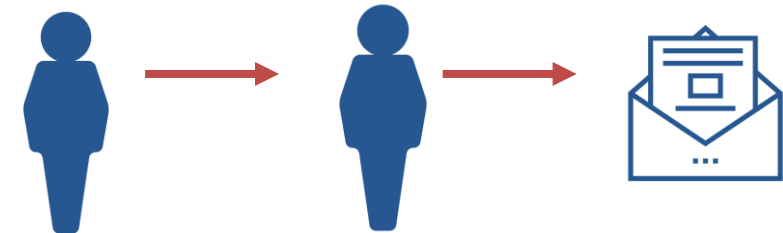
If COVID-19 symptoms are identified among children, staff, or household contacts.

OR



If clusters (2+) of staff and/or children are identified with any respiratory infection.

Report any health concern to facility director immediately. The facility director should communicate with LHD to ensure proper notification and discuss procedures.



Parents and guardians must be [notified](#) if a COVID-19 case is identified (case was in childcare setting while infectious)

Isolation of Those with COVID-19 Symptoms

Identify place in facility where ill persons can stay until picked up and taken home. Staff should monitor all children/staff for symptoms. Ill persons must stay home until the following criteria are met:

- ❖ Fever free for **24 hours** with no medicine AND
- ❖ Other symptoms **improved** AND
- ❖ At least **10 days** have passed since symptom onset

COVID-19 Symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Headache
- New Loss of Taste/Smell
- Sore Throat
- Congestion/runny nose
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea

Children and staff who test positive but have no symptoms must also stay home until at least 10 days have passed since the first positive test. If symptoms develop, they must follow criteria above.

If COVID-19 test negative and/or there is an alternative diagnosis (e.g., strep throat, flu) the length of time to stay home should be adjusted. In general, return to childcare may occur once symptoms improve and no fever for 24 hours without medicine.

Quarantine



If COVID-19 is suspected/confirmed, VDH recommends all others in the household quarantine for 14 days after their last exposure (with exceptions).



Individuals who are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine.



The Health Department will be able to provide clearance letters for those who are complete with their quarantine.

COVID-19 Testing



Ill persons should contact the Fairfax County Health Department or their healthcare provider to arrange for testing.

TESTING SITES

Can select “Free Testing Available.”



Close contacts of a case should be tested immediately. If negative, they should be retested 5-7 days after exposure or immediately if symptoms develop.



During outbreaks, the LHD can arrange for testing. 3-5 people should be tested to confirm presence of outbreak.

If COVID-19 is ruled out, refer to guidance for the specific illness identified.

Report cases by calling the health department at 703-267-3511 or filling out [this](#) survey.

*Testing for students, teachers, and other faculty and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19 is not required if the person has been fully vaccinated or has tested positive in the past 3 months and does not have any symptoms.

Contact Tracing

Facility should keep a daily log of staff and children that includes the following:

- ❖ Contact information
- ❖ Symptom status each day
- ❖ Group assignments
- ❖ Location within the facility (which room, office, etc.)



Provide list of ill person's close contacts 2 days prior to illness onset (for asymptomatic—2 days before test specimen collection).



Contact tracing performed by the local health department.



VDH recommends close contacts be tested immediately and quarantine for 14 days after last exposure.



Childcare facilities must report cases of COVID-19 under “[12VAC5-90-90: Those required to report.](#)”

Outbreaks and Closures

Facility closures will be decided in consultation with the local health department.

If ill persons and close contacts can be excluded without affecting the larger population, then other groups within the facility who did not have contact with the ill person might continue to function with:

- daily screening for illness
- physical distancing
- hygiene measures

If closure is necessary, the recommended time frame is 14 days. While the facility is closed, children and staff should NOT be sent to another childcare provider.

After 14 days, facility may reopen if:

- The child/staff member is well with no COVID-19 symptoms
- There is no one in the child/staff member's household or other close contacts suspected to have COVID-19.

Resources

CDC Resources

- [Childcare, Schools, and Youth Programs](#)
- [Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open](#)
- [Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)
- [Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfection Your Facility](#)
- [When to Quarantine](#)

VDH Resources

- [Health Department Locator](#)
- [VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Website](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing Sites in Virginia](#)
- [VDH COVID-19 Testing](#)
- [VDH What to do if you were potentially exposed to coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)?](#) (Includes descriptions of who is not required to quarantine.)
- [VDH Daily Monitoring Log for COVID-19](#)
- [Child Care and Camps](#)
- VDH Algorithm for Evaluating a Child with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure ([1-pager](#))
- VDH Guideline for Evaluating a Child with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure ([booklet](#), [infographic](#))
- [Virginia Department of Social Services \(DSS\):](#)
 - [COVID-19 Update and Resources for ChildCareVA](#)

Resources

VDH Resources Continued

- [Case Investigation and Contact Tracing for K-12 Schools](#)
- [Governor Northam's Updates to Executive Orders](#)
- [VDH Health Department Locator](#)
- [VDH Outbreaks by Selected Exposure Settings Dashboard](#)
- [12VAC5-90-90 Those required to report](#)
- [VDH criteria for ending quarantine](#)



Questions?